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UNCLE JOHN'S
STORIES OF ANIMALS.



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George Shaw.
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THE APE.

THIS is one of the largest of the Monkey tribe. He resembles the human figure more than any other animal. As you see him now, he is wild in his native woods. There he is fierce and of great strength. They walk commonly on all-fours.



THE RHINOCEROS.

THIS animal is next in size to an elephant, but with shorter legs. He looks somewhat like the hog. He is lazy, and feeds on roots and shrubs. His hide is like a coat of mail, and bullet-proof. The Rhinoceros is a very quiet and inoffensive animal, but when attacked he becomes dangerous.



THE DEER.

THE Deer is found wild in the woods, all over our country, from Maine to Texas. His meat is called venison; the male is called a stag, the female, a doe, the young one, a fawn. The Deer is hunted for its flesh and its skin, which makes good gloves. Its horns are the buckhorn of which knife handles are made.



THE HORSE.

THIS Horse is of the Hungarian breed ; and the rider is one of those wild Hungarian herdsman, or horse catchers, called Csikos. They lead a wild sort of life in a very wild country ; but their hardiness, courage, and skill as horsemen, made them valuable cavalry soldiers in the late war between Hungary and Austria.



THE LION.

THE Lion is the King of the Beasts; and his appearance in the wilds of Africa, or partially subdued, betokens it. Europeans hunt Lions in Asia and Africa, yet it is very dangerous sport. He rarely attacks man unless forced to do so by hunger. The height of the Lion is from three to four feet.



THE ANTELOPE.

IN Africa there are many different kinds of antelopes, such as the Gnoo, the Koodoo, the Oryx, and many others. The herds of these animals cover the plains for many miles. The Lion, the Leopard, the Panther, and other beasts of prey live on them. This one is called the harnessed antelope from the regular marks on his skin.



THE BEAVER.

You have heard of the Beaver, no doubt. He is the animal who builds a dam across a brook, with apartments in it to keep his winter stock of provisions. Those sharp teeth serve for axe and saw. The curious scaly looking tail is his trowel. His fur is very highly valued.



THE CHAMOIS.

THE Chamois is a sort of wild goat, found in the Alps of Switzerland and the Tyrol. It lives high up among rocks and snowy precipices, and the hunters are often killed by severe falls when they are hunting the Chamois. But they never care for that; and are always ready for a fresh hunt, after escaping the greatest dangers.



THE GIRAFFE.

THE Giraffe is the tallest known animal in the world. Its body is about the size of a horse, the neck is about seven feet long, and the top of its head is nearly seventeen feet from the ground. Its skin is beautifully spotted with brown upon a whitish ground. He is very strong, but gentle and timid.



THE ELEPHANT.

THE Elephant is the largest brute in existence. His senses are all acute, his nature gentle. His height is from ten to fifteen feet. He uses his trunk as an organ of smelling and feeling. His sagacity is very great. The Elephant, when twenty years old, is said to weigh seven thousand pounds.



THE BEAR.

THERE are many kinds of Bears, as the Brown, and White or Polar Bear. This is the Grizzly Bear, by far the fiercest, strongest, and most formidable of them all. He is found in the far west. He has very strong, sharp claws, with which he tears his enemy. Some of them are so large as to weigh fifteen hundred pounds.



THE LEOPARD.

THE Leopard is a fierce animal of the cat kind. He has not the mane nor the majestic head of the lion. But his beautiful spotted skin makes him famous among wild beasts. He lives on the smaller and weaker animals which abound in Africa and Asia. All the different kinds of antelopes and deer furnish food for him.

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